

Reply to Office Action dated October 10, 2006

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended. No new matter is added. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims and the drawings. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claim 1 has been amended in response to the Examiner's comments. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 11, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Makino, U.S. Patent No. 5,789,862. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to more particularly and clearly recite the claimed subject matter. Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed features are patentably distinct from the cited prior art. More specifically, Makino does not disclose or suggest at least “wherein a distance d between the scan electrode and the sustain electrode is set wider than a distance L between the scan electrode and the address electrode, and wherein the following relation is satisfied in order to form a positive column in the sustain period: $d > L$,” as recited in independent claim 1. That is, Makino discloses that when the surface discharge gap d is wide ($d=2.0$ h), the writing range can be ensured even for a very low data pulse voltage V_D by increasing the scan pulse voltage V_w . The selective writing discharge can occur for each pixel.

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In $0.80 \leq h/d \leq 1.25$, pixels can be selectively caused to emit light at a low data pulse voltage V_D reducing the power consumption. Thus, Makino selects the range $0.80 \leq h/d \leq 1.25$ ($0.8h \leq d \leq 1.25h$) to reduce the power consumption during the address period. However, in the claimed invention, during the sustain period, in order to form a wide positive column, the distance d between the scan electrode and the sustain electrode is set wider than the distance L between the scan electrode and the address electrode. This results in the relationship of $d > L$. Therefore, Makino does not disclose or suggest that electrons form a positive column in the sustain period, as recited in independent claim 1.

Accordingly, the rejection of independent claim 1 over Makino should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 11-12 are allowable over Makino at least for the reasons discussed with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

The Office Action rejected claims 2-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Makino in view of Lee et al. (hereinafter "Lee"), U.S. Patent No. 6,720,736. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 2-10 are allowable over Makino at least for the reasons discussed with respect to independent claim 1 from which they depend, as well as for their added features. Lee fails to overcome the deficiencies of Makino, as it is merely cited for allegedly disclosing an auxiliary electrode. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Serial No. **10/791,691**

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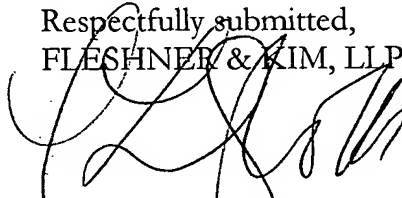
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
FLESHNER & KIM, LLP



Carol L. Druzbeck
Registration No. 40,287

P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1200
703 766-3701 CLD/kah

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Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610